

By: Representatives Weathersby, Baker  
(74th), Malone, Moore, Reeves, Rogers (61st),  
Rotenberry, Smith (59th)

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 87

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING COACH BENJAMIN COYTE  
2 VANCE ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE MISSISSIPPI COACHES ASSOCIATION  
3 HALL OF FAME AND ON HIS LIFE AND OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AS A COACH  
4 AND MENTOR OF SEVERAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC TEAMS, AND AS A TEACHER  
5 AND PRINCIPAL IN VARIOUS MISSISSIPPI SCHOOLS.

6 WHEREAS, Coach "Red" Vance grew up in rural Newton County,  
7 and attended school in Conehatta, Mississippi, where the only  
8 competitive sport was basketball and the only practice court away  
9 from school was a hoop nailed to the front of the family car shed,  
10 and during these years he had very dedicated coaches who taught  
11 him the fundamentals, discipline and work ethics of the game of  
12 basketball so that he grew to love the game; and

13 WHEREAS, young Benjamin Vance was elected to various all-  
14 tournament teams and then to all-state teams during his junior and  
15 senior high school years and attended Mississippi State University  
16 on a basketball scholarship from the fall of 1948 through the  
17 spring of 1952; and

18 WHEREAS, during his years at Mississippi State University, he  
19 played ball with and against such players as Jo Jo Dean and Bob  
20 Pettit of Louisiana State University, and Cliff Hagan and Bob  
21 Cousey of Kentucky, causing the famous Kentucky Coach, Adolph  
22 Rupp, to name "Red" Vance as a member of the team he would least  
23 like to play against; and

24 WHEREAS, although Red Vance was rather short at 6'1" to play  
25 the center position, he played against athletes 6'4" to 7'1" and  
26 held the SEC free throw record during his senior year with 147 in  
27 23 games, resulting in his being drafted by the Milwaukee Hawks  
28 team in 1952; and

29           WHEREAS, Red Vance turned down the opportunity to play in a  
30 professional league, and chose to serve his country with the  
31 United States Air Force in Korea and Japan; and

32           WHEREAS, Coach Vance was discharged from the Air Force in  
33 1954, and began his 47-year coaching and school administration  
34 career at Pelahatchie High School, and continued that coaching  
35 career for the next 11 years as a successful coach at Florence  
36 High School; and

37           WHEREAS, interrupting his career again in 1967, saying he was  
38 too old to coach, Red Vance began a new career as Principal at  
39 Richland High School, serving in school administration for the  
40 next 20 years; and

41           WHEREAS, in 1986, returning to Richland to retire, he was  
42 soon called back into coaching by the Mississippi Private School  
43 Association where he coached for the next 14 years; and

44           WHEREAS, during his long and distinguished coaching career,  
45 Coach Vance coached six Girls All-Star Games, including the first  
46 MHSAA Girls All-Star Game; and

47           WHEREAS, Coach Vance was honored as Coach of the Year for the  
48 Mississippi Private School Association for nine years, Coach of  
49 the Year for Girls in the Little Dixie Conference for three years,  
50 made nine trips to State Tournaments in Public and Private  
51 Schools, won two Little Dixie Championships, one South State  
52 Championship, was four times Rankin County Tournament Winner in  
53 girls and three times in boys basketball; and

54           WHEREAS, Coach Vance has a win-loss record, including B  
55 Teams, of 1041 wins and 333 losses for a 75.7% winning record; and

56           WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize  
57 and commend excellence especially when evidenced by such an  
58 outstanding Coach as Benjamin Coyte Vance:

59           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
60 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
61 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend Benjamin Coyte Vance on being

62 inducted into the Mississippi Coaches Association Hall of Fame,  
63 and express our warmest wishes for continued success in all his  
64 future endeavors.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
66 furnished to Coach Benjamin Coyte Vance and to the members of the  
67 Capitol Press Corps.